

## KARO-ECHO 11 Sept 2017 – MEETING NOTES

These are some notes from the 11 Sep meeting at KCC. There were 9 attendees, 9 with ham radio credentials, and 4 from CERT Areas plus the CERT Program Director – BC Janes.– with overlap between the two groups.

In the general overview segment of the meeting, Marian Gade discussed several agenda items. Other items were attendance at the NALCO meeting by two KE members. The possible participation in the Shakeout event in EC in October. Also it was concurred that we continue in it's present format the K-E Thursday evening call-in directed by Ginny Summerer, with Jerry Michaels as backup.

The new meeting format then started with a series of discussion focusing on Radio Issues. This was approached in four areas: Infrastructure; Technical; Training & Public Service; Recruiting. All these areas require work to ensure we will be able to use a competent radio system in emergency response.

Infrastructure Issues -The existing ham radio system consists of a Kensington and an El Cerrito component. The Kensington component has 5 ham radios at stations in Kensington – 3 in public buildings – Station 65 at the KPSB, at the KCC and at Hilltop school and 2 at private residences – one at ???Rd, the other at Stratford Rd. These two stations can be relocated if K-E decides there is a reason for that. The radios are maintained and checked at regular intervals by Jerry Michaels and Marian Gade. Other hams need to be added to this list to expand our operational crew.

The El Cerrito area also has 5 radios positioned at 5 locations – one at the EC EOC (City Hall), and one each at Station 71, Station 72, The EC Senior Center and Harding School. It was not stated how these radios are maintained and checked. An operations crew should be developed to cover these stations.

These radios should be staffed and ready to operate in a disaster response, which would require 10 operators for a single shift. Also the 3 Fire Stations are intended to serve as relay stations each handling 5 or 6 CERT Areas – to transmit Area situational reports – and requests – to the EOC. These stations would require at a minimum, a scribe to support the operator.

In addition to the ham radios, a number of the CERT areas have FRS radios for intra-Area use. The 6 Kensington Areas have Motorola FRS radios supplied by the FD for their emergency equipment sheds. El Cerrito has at least one area with self-provided FRS radios – EC 1. Other areas may also have their own radios. These radios are stored and maintained by the Areas. A first class Training effective use of FRS radios was provided to EC/K CERT members by Berkeley CERT/NALCO.

In addition to radios the Emergency Communication stations need message forms, ICS forms and other supplies. These issues have to be taken into effect at some point.

Jerry Michaels has agreed to continue to handle the Infrastructure Issues – and will need substantial assistance from other hams.

Technical Issues – this is the second Radio area – and is a major set of issues. These notes do not capture the numerous issues and discussion in the technical arena, but will give a condensed version.

The first issue was the fact that CERT/K-E does not have more than a vestigial plan for the proper use of frequencies in a disaster – either for ham radio or FRS. We have a single frequency 146.415 MHz with a backup frequency of 146.430. After much discussion it was agreed that K-E needs to develop a band plan for both the ham stations and for the use of FRS in the Areas.

A second area of considerable discussion was the lack of, and need for, a robust net control system. We do have a small net control effort that has and will be able to operate in a disaster but it needs a substantial expansion. We need a number of operators – both for ham and for FRS. We need an agreed upon set of protocols for net control, and we need substantial training efforts, both ham and FRS. This is a second top priority for K-E Technical capabilities.

The third area of need for us is a good understanding, with training for messaging. There is no strong agreement of exactly how we will handle messaging but this needs to be developed.

Don Simon has agreed to take the lead in the Technical arena – with Wayne Coburn and Hal Graboske assisting. Others will be needed to handle all these tasks.

Training & Public Service - these topics are perhaps the most labor intensive of all – and we have no real program or capability in place. We need to address this soon – as we start to try to become operational in the CERT areas. Leadership will be needed.

Recruiting – again a key need – K-E is still at a 5-10 participating member level – which needs to be greatly expanded to be able to handle all the tasks we have identified above. This effort should be focused on the CERT Areas – with help from the FD and possibly from other radio clubs near us. But the onus of attracting new participants lies primarily on the existing K-E folks.

The second segment of the meeting concerns specific CERT concerns. Since many CERT issues were addressed in the radio/emergency communication segment above, there was little to add at this point. But there were two items specific to CERT area needs – the first is communications mapping. As the Areas start to use radio – both ham (from the Area ICP/Message center to the relay Fire station) and intra-Area FRS, we will need to map out the LOS open comm links and the dead spots – for each area and for both systems. The CERT area teams can begin to do this.

The second issue and an important one is the development of a block system within an Area to divide the large number of residences in each area into manageable local blocks. It was agreed that this is an essential element for coherent use of radio communication. It was also discussed by the CERT AC's that this is a very challenging issue – that finding residents that are willing to be block leads is very hard. Only 2 of the 4 areas at the meeting have modest block components, and only a few others not in this group are believed to have

existing block structures.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Hal,

The new ham was Ken Gustafson, KK6SRD, who is on our EC9 roster and currently taking CERT training. Email: tkg@berkeley.edu

Also please put Jamuel back on your EK email list. He wanted to come but had a conflict that prevented attendance.

I think that we should try to enhance the Thursday evening night net, granted that the current crew just wants to check in and then check out. That is better than nothing but, what about ascertaining who can contact whom. Do some test messages. Have some short on-air trainings/drills, etc.

I suggest that we change the nomenclature to avoid possible ambiguities. In amateur radio a working "Technical" group connotes electronics technician work, technical electronic enhancements, electronic maintenance, engineering, and repair.

1) Change "Technical" to "Operations, planning, and training" working group.

Duties: Develop a written EMComm plan, operations procedures, protocols, intra-area frequency coordination, operators manual, net control procedures, message handling procedures, training, and exercises

2) Change "Infrastructure" to "Equipment technical maintenance, repair, and development group".

Job Description: To create a schedule of periodic checks and maintenance (if needed) of all EK radios, antennas, feedlines, batteries, microphones, etc., so that they are in operational order. To make recommendations for improvements or enhancements of such and install.

We both know that Jerry will not be able to handle this all by himself. So let's solicit help for Jerry.

Regarding recruitment we already have more hams that do not know how to use their equipment and have really no interest in radio per se. I think they might not make good radio operators unless they have some enthusiasm to learn. I think that the real gold mine are the hams that we have lost in the past, who have given up on EK because of its lack of functionality. We have 200 hams in EC. I know why most of them aren't interested in coming to another meaningless meeting after less than meaningless meeting. You know, I was one of them and still may return to the ranks of disinterest.

I will give you some history of NALCO ARES. It did not take many years for them to become functional. They actually performed very well during the Loma Prieta Earthquake in numerous shelters and Red Cross operations that lasted over 2 weeks.

I don't remember the exact formation date, but it was like 1982 or 1983. I called the first organizational meeting at the Berkeley Red Cross. Larry Marks, Mal Raff, Fred Leif, Grahame Welch, Jim Johnston, Woody Mertens, myself and many others showed up. I presided over the meeting and handed the reins over the NALCO ARES. I think Larry Marks was the first president, Fred Leif; while Mal Raff, Woody Mertens, or something like that followed. Connie can fill you in. They were very enthused and Mal, WA2UNP put together repeaters on top of Alta Bates, while the club put antennas up on various Berkeley and Albany locations. They were far ahead of where we are now within one year. Why? It's called positive motivation and ability to organize on an egalitarian level as a community service organization. I like NALCO ARES structure. They are organized. I suggest that you get ahold of their by-laws and constitution. Excellent.

Hope some of this helps demystify the situation. EK does not have to stagnate and remain dysfunctional as long as it is willing to change.

Best Regards,

Don